

GERMANY'S NEW U-BOAT WAR CALLED "CORNERED BARBARITY"

Maitre Clunet, France's Most Eminent International Lawyer, Analyzes Sea Frightfulness

Edict Lays Bare What Was Previously Intended but Diplomatically Kept Concealed

By HENRI BAZIN
Special Correspondent in France of Evening Ledger.

PARIS, Feb. 1.—In the opinion of Maitre Edouard Clunet, the most eminent student of international law in France, the legal adviser of the English and Spanish embassies in Paris, the founder and ex-president of the Institute de Droit International, and president of the International Law Association, and successful pleader at The Hague in two important historical instances, the German submarine policy of open warfare against shipping flying any flag that is at peace with the Government at Paris.

M. Clunet receives visitors in a vast study, full thirty feet square and twenty feet from floor to ceiling, with more books than the mental workshop than one sees very often within four walls of a private home. He is an active, gray-bearded man, about sixty years old. The noted international lawyer said:

The only new and interesting point in the German submarine aim at blockading the coasts of Great Britain, France and Italy is that for the first time since the beginning of the war Germany comes out into the open and takes a position of "nuda veritas" before the world. For her note is a definite statement of definite policy laid down as against a more or less restrained continuance of the former policy in the past under cover of innuendo, denial, excuse and fear of rupture with the greatest neutral, the United States. And it proves the gravity of her situation. Only a nation in its last extremity would resort to such a measure.

A LAST CHANCE

"Only a nation that had been forced by menacing circumstances would weigh such a desperate and risky all left to it as the throw of such a card. I feel convinced this is the present German official mind, that every possible contingency has been taken into consideration and the die cast upon this one issue:

We are beaten unless we can win through this deed. It has the glimmer of a chance. It will call down upon us the execration of neutrals, but it will not bring them to bear arms against us. Additional notes that it may create an, as those of the past, be conveniently pigeon-holed. If we don't try it on, we lose. And if in the trying, our judgment as regards neutrals is in error, we will have but more enemies without being in worse position than we are now drifting toward without them.

"From the point of view of international law, the German declaration is, of course, but a paper blockade. For a blockade, to be truly effective, must be enforced by a cordon of war vessels which bar access to the blockaded country, according to the rules of war laid down in the Declaration of Paris, to which Germany and other nations became party in 1856 after the Crimean war, just as the peace blockade maintained by customs at a frontier is made possible of enforcement only through a cordon of men and patrols.

"Now, the German navy does not exist upon the high seas. So a legitimate blockade, following the rules of war as the extant law against her through the navies of England and France, is without her power. That which she proposes to do is therefore but added violation of international law upon her part; added contempt for her own honor, long since dragged in the mire of evil deed. It is also but an extended intent of her paper blockade against England of February 4, 1915, which in the aim it had in view has been a miserable failure.

"Under her present determination, she will desperately sink a greater number of neutral Spanish and neutral Norwegian merchantmen with the virtual certainty that nothing in the nature of hostilities from



MAITRE EDOUARD CLUNET

these nations will accrue. There remains only the United States. "And she has considered that country's attitude I well believe, considered with ear to the ground and the waters, fairly sure through established precedent that it will not enter hostilities against her. It is on record that she has erred in judgment before in conclusions in this war. And in her gambler's chance she may be doing so again, this time in the case of the great nation across the Atlantic. But she believes she is quite safe from war with that great nation; and so do I.

"Whether or no, she will alter nothing by her policy. She will lose in no more or less time than she would before writing this note. A little more execration from the neutrals, a note or two in protest, in addition will not weigh heavily upon her breaking shoulders. Her end in the sense of world domination is written upon the wall. And when it comes peace will reign again in the world, with the German people

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full in realization that the arrogant dream of their Prussian rulers was their own undoing.

FRIGHTFULNESS ON SEAS

"Meanwhile, there are frightful times ahead upon the high seas. Innocent non-combatants and natives of countries in friendly relation with Germany will be murdered by her undersea weapon. Her place in history will be more deeply deplorable to her unborn generations. That is all. Her act is the last desperate resort of cornered barbarity, a barbarity that will die hard and fighting in frenzied rage to its last gasp, knowing it is doomed to die."

Maitre Edouard Clunet was born in Grenoble, France, in 1845. His legal instruction was obtained at the famous Chartres Law School. He entered the service of the French army as a sergeant in 1870, and left it at the end of the war with Prussia as captain in the Twenty-fourth Regiment of Territorials. In 1901 he pleaded before the Hague Tribunal the case of France when that nation with Belgium, Holland, Spain and the United States were successfully arrayed against Germany and England in

the claims arising from the blockade of Venezuelan ports. Before the same court of arbitration he pleaded the cause of Turkey in 1913 when Russian claims for added indemnity were denied.

M. Clunet founded in 1874 the world-famed legal periodical, the Journal of International Right and Comparative Legislation, known throughout the legal profession of the globe as "the Clunet," and is still its active director, a position he has filled for forty-three years. In addition to a full life professionally, he has written for "the Clunet" and in many books upon the chosen branch of his work a veritable encyclopedia of legal lore, and is recognized among international lawyers throughout the world as a supreme authority.

The degree of doctor in juris civilis was conferred upon him by Oxford University, August 5, 1912, at the time the same honor was given to five other legal lights of world renown: M. M. Puginato, ex-Italian Minister of Justice; E. Nys, a counselor of Brussels, now held as a hostage by Germany; Von Bar, a noted German lawyer; Louis Renault, of Paris, and Elihu Root, ex-Senator of the United States and Secretary

of State. With the single exception of Mr. the International Law Association founded Root, five of the six had been presidents of by M. Clunet.

W. A. STUART DEAD

William A. Stuart, for many years connected with the John Wanamaker store as an expert on furniture, died early today at the Episcopal Hospital, where he has been under treatment for a week. Death was due to pneumonia. Mr. Stuart was forty-nine years old.

When the dormitories at the Central Branch Y. M. C. A. opened early in 1908 Mr. Stuart was the first to take a permanent room, and he lived there until he was stricken. For years Mr. Stuart lived at Asbury Park, where he was affiliated with the First Presbyterian Church, but since coming to this city he attended the Grace Baptist Church. He was a member of St. Paul Lodge, No. 481, F. and A. M., and of the Century Club.

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